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INDIAN TECHIE WAS FIRST HIRE IN MUSK'S SELF-DRIVING QUEST

Ashok Elluswamy, a 2009 graduate from a Chennai college, was the first hire for Tesla's Autopilot team, Elon Musk said

LITTLE-KNOWN ENGINEERING CHIEF IN TESLA

The Tesla CEO talked up the contributions of Elluswamy, the head of the electric carmaker's Autopilot software division, in a recent interview. Elluswamy's beginnings will sound familiar to techies: He did a four-year BE course at College of Engineering, Guindy, prior to working for WABCO. He also studied MS in robotics at Carnegie Mellon University for a year

EIGHT-YEAR VETERAN AT TESLA

- Elluswamy began developing components of Tesla's first-gen self-driving software when he joined the company and then later helped migrate its computer-vision system to Autopilot 2.0
- He heads a team that trains neural networks with huge amounts of real-world driving data to make autonomous cars a reality

7 years
AGO TESLA BEGAN DEVELOPING ITS AUTOPILOT TECHNOLOGY

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

₹8L EWS quota cap to stay, Centre tells SC

Reservation norms stringent as compared to that of OBC's creamy layer, says panel

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

DAYS before the Supreme Court begins further hearing on a petition by a few NEET-PG candidates challenging the 10% quota for the Economically Weaker Section (EWS), the Centre informed the court that it will go with the suggestion of a panel to retain the annual income cap at ₹8 lakh for that category.

Though the income criterion appears similar for both the EWS and the OBC creamy layer, the norms for the former are much more stringent, the panel's report argued.

One, the EWS criteria relates to the financial year prior to the year of application, while that for the creamy layer applies to the gross annual income for three consecutive years. Second, in the case of the creamy layer, income from salaries, agriculture and traditional artisanal professions are excluded from consideration, but for EWS, all sources are factored in, including farming. "So, despite being the same cut-off number, their composition is different and hence, the two cannot be equated," the report by the three-member panel said. It submitted its recommendations to the Centre on December 31.

The report agreed that there is a link between the EWS and the OBC creamy layer criteria, but said it relates to the history of how the debate on these two issues co-evolved. "Nonetheless, the way in which the income criterion is actually defined is very different in the two contexts. Focusing solely on the ₹8 lakh number, therefore, is misleading," it emphasised.

"This means the EWS income criterion is much tighter, especially in the context of large sections of society with volatile non-salary incomes (shopkeepers, artists, farmers, micro-entrepreneurs etc)," it said.

Besides, having different income limits depending on geographies — rural, urban, metro or states will create complications, it said. "Having different income limits for different areas will be an implementation nightmare both for government authorities and applicants," the report pointed out.

PANDEY, SANYAL PART OF THE COMMITTEE

The panel constituted on November 30 last year had Ajay Bhushan Pandey, former finance secretary, V K Malhotra, member secretary, ICSSR, and Sanjeev Sanyal, Principal Economic Adviser to the Centre

A health worker at a vax centre ahead of the drive for teenagers in Bengaluru | SHRIRAMBN

Ashoka: Tougher curbs before Jan 7

NATIONWIDE	JAN 1	JAN 2
Fresh cases	22,775	27,553
Recoveries	8,949	9,249
Deaths	406	284
KARNATAKA	**JAN 1**	**JAN 2**
Fresh cases	1,033	1,187
Recoveries	354	275
Deaths	4	6

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

AS Karnataka reported 1,187 Covid cases on Sunday and 1,033 on Saturday after the numbers stayed below the 500-mark for a long time, Revenue Minister R Ashoka said that the state government is likely to bring in tougher rules and restrictions before January 7 to check the spread of Covid among the masses.

With Bengaluru recording a majority of the cases, the "tougher rules" and tighter restrictions are likely to be specially imposed in the state capital. Bengaluru reported 923 of the 1,187 cases on Sunday and 810 of the total 1,033 cases on Saturday.

Ashoka, a member of the government panel on Covid that also includes Higher Education Minister Dr CN Ashwath Narayan and Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar, told reporters, "Bengaluru is in the Red Zone according to the list put out by the Union government. It is important to sound an alert in the city. We can save people's lives and reduce the number of hospitalisations if we impose stricter restrictions in Bengaluru."

While night curfew is already in force from December 28 to January 7, he said, "We will convene a meeting and announce some tough rules before January 7 when the night curfew will be lifted." The expert committee on health will also brief Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on the measures to be taken. "We will implement the recommendations of the committee in toto because we have seen the sufferings and deaths last time," Ashoka said, referring to the second wave of the pandemic. P3

CITY ROADS

Fill all potholes by March 31, says Bommai

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IN a move, seemingly aimed at the forthcoming BBMP polls, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday set March 31 as the deadline to fill potholes on the entire 730 km stretch of roads in Bengaluru, which will bring much-needed relief to Bengalureans harassed by the bad condition of roads.

Bommai made it clear that the priority of the BJP government is to keep the IT City tidy. In all, 150 engineers will be hired on contract basis, as the number of wards within the BBMP limits has increased from 198 to 243 after delimitation.

The CM , who is holding the Bengaluru development portfolio, chaired a meeting of his cabinet colleagues, Bengaluru MPs and top officials at his home office Krishna over comprehensive development of the city. After the meeting, Revenue Minister R Ashoka said the chief minister promised an additional grant of Rs 1,500 crore to take up road projects under TenderSURE that can the assault of rain better. P2

Avoid vax mix for children: Govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

A day before the Covid vaccination drive for adolescents begins across the country, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Sunday advised all states to guard against mix-up of jabs, as Covaxin alone has been approved for those in the 15-17 age group.

"To avoid mixing-up of vaccines during administration, separate Covid vaccination centres, separate session sites, separate queue and separate vaccination team are to be strived for," he said.

With some states intending to hold vaccination camps in schools itself, jabbing ought to be wrapped up pretty soon. Goa, for example, is confident of vaccinating all its 72,000 children with the first dose in the next four days. However, in Kerala, it will be done in general/ district/ taluk/ community health centres till January 10 except on Wednesdays.

Mandaviya said various countries are experiencing three to four times surge in Covid cases as compared to their earlier peaks, warning that a high surge could overwhelm India's medical system, too.

In all, 1,525 cases of Omicron have been detected across 23 states and Union Territories as on Sunday morning. Maharashtra topped the list 460 cases, followed by Delhi at 351, Gujarat 136, Tamil Nadu 117 and Kerala 109.

In Delhi, the case positivity rate went up to 4.59%, but Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal advised people not to panic as most patients are asymptomatic or have very mild symptoms and do not need hospitalisation.

2ND TEST

HISTORY BECKONS KOHLI & CO

India have a date with history in the New Year when they take on an out-of-sorts South Africa in the second Test from Monday in pursuit of a first-ever series win in the Rainbow Nation | PTI

BULLI BAI

App targeting Muslim women sparks outrage

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

AMID outrage on Sunday over allegations that a shady app posted pictures of Muslim women "for auction", IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the government is working with police in Delhi and Mumbai in the matter.

The Delhi Police's cyber cell registered an FIR on Sunday, after a journalist alleged that doctored pictures of her and others are being shared on the app. Mumbai's cyber police, too, registered an FIR.

Doctored photos of at least 100 women with lewd comments were shared on the "Bulli Bai" app that was hosted on GitHub. While the app was later removed, some Twitter users were spotted posting screengrabs tagging the women.

CONTINUED ON: P9

Army foils cross-LoC intrusion by Pak national in Keran sector

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

ON a day armies of India and Pakistan exchanged sweets across the troubled Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch to celebrate the New Year, the neighbour tried to push in an armed terrorist in the Keran sector in J&K. The intruder was quickly neutralised.

General Officer Commanding of 28th Division Major General Abhijit Pendharkar told reporters on Sunday that in complete breach of the ceasefire understanding, an intruder was detected moving from an area under the control of the Pakistani Army across the LoC around 3 pm on Saturday.

An ambush was sprung at the opportune moment and the terrorist eliminated, foiling the infiltration bid or BAT action (Pakistan Army's Border Action Team), he added. The slain intruder was identified as Mohd Shabbir Malik, a Pakistani national. An AK-47 rifle and a large quantity of ammunition, including seven grenades, were recovered from his possession.

The route the intruder took was similar to the one adopted on April 4, 2020 during Operation Rangadori Bhaikh, in which five terrorists were killed. Five Indian soldiers were also killed in that gunfight, the officer recalled.

A Pakistani identity card and vaccination certificates were recovered from the possession of Malik. "A photo of the infiltrator in an Army uniform with the name tab of Shabbir was also recovered." It establishes the fact that Pakistan continues to sponsor cross-border militancy, the officer said, adding a hotline contact has been made with the Pakistan Army asking them to take back the body.

Maj Gen Pendharkar said there are intel inputs about more infiltration bids.

TWITTER

Mohd Shabbir Malik

Launchpads in Pakistan loaded with militants

The number of infiltration attempts in 2021 were less than 2020, but launch pads across the LoC continue to be full of militants, General Officer Commanding 15 Corps Lt Gen D P Pandey had recently said

Mammoth heist: Mutt blames forest dept

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Tumakuru

IT was a heist of elephantine proportions and the fog of mystery clouds the attempt to kidnap a pachyderm from a Tumakuru mutt on December 31. The elephant, which was driven away in a truck by the accused, was found abandoned at a village in Kunigal taluk and brought back to Sri Karibasavaswamy Mutt at Horapete on Sunday.

It is said that the accused tried to sell the 27-year-old pachyderm, Lakshmi, to a circus company and abandoned it after failing to cut a deal. The culprits claimed to be from the forest department and told the mutt authorities that the elephant would be taken to the Bannerghatta Biological Park for a health checkup. Her mahouts too boarded the truck. "But midway at Dobspet, when they took a break, the accused dropped the mahouts and left with the animal. Forest officials too are involved," alleged Sri Kalyanaswamy, junior pontiff of the Mutt.

Deputy Conservator of Forests Dr Suresh said the PCCF had issued a permit, but to the senior seer, Sri Jagadguru Channabasava Rajendra. P5

The elephant which was kidnapped and later abandoned, at Sri Karibasavaswamy Mutt at Horapete on Sunday | EXPRESS

Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, Bangalore, Mandya District Administration, Zilla Panchayath, Mandya and Sri Adichunchanagiri Mahasamsthana Mutt, Srikshethra
Hon'ble Minister for Youth Empowerment and Sports Dr. K. C. Narayana Gowda Felicitating athletes who participated in the Tokyo Olympic and Para Olympic Games along with Hon'ble Governor and Hon'ble Chief Minister
YUVA JANOTSAVA
2021-22
Venue: Sri Adichunchanagiri Mahasamsthana Mutt, Srikshethra, Nagamangala Taluk, Mandya District.
Date : 04.01.2022, Tuesday, 11.30 a.m.
Inauguration Ceremony
Inauguration
Sri Thaawarchand Gehlot
Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka
Divine Presence
Sri Sri Sri Dr. Nirmalanandanatha Mahaswamiji
Pontiff, Sri Adichunchanagiri Mahasamsthana Mutt, Srikshethra
Chief Guests
Dr. K.C. Narayana Gowda
Hon'ble Minister for Youth Empowerment and Sports, District-in-Charge Minister, Mandya.
Sri V. Sunil Kumar
Hon'ble Minister for Energy and Kannada & Culture, Govt. of Karnataka
Date : 05.01.2022, Wednesday, 3.00 p.m.
Validectory Ceremony
Launching of Amrutha Samudaya Abhivrudhi Yojane & Amrutha Kreeda Dattu Yojane
Sri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt. of Karanataka
Divine Presence
Sri Sri Sri Dr. Nirmalanandanatha Mahaswamiji
Pontiff, Sri Adichunchanagiri Mahasamsthana Mutt, Srikshethra
Chief Guest
Dr. K.C. Narayana Gowda
Hon'ble Minister for Youth Empowerment and Sports, District-in-Charge Minister, Mandya.
Distribution of Prizes
Dr. C.N. Ashwathnarayan
Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, IT BT and Science & Technology, Skill Development, Government of Karnataka.
:Presided by:
Sri Suresh Gowda
Hon'ble MLA, Nagamangala Assembly Constituency
Dr. H.N. Gopalakrishna, IAS
Commissioner,
Dept. of Youth Empowerment & Sports
Smt. S. Ashwathi IAS
Deputy Commissioner
Mandya District
Dr. Shalini Rajanish IAS
Addl. Chief Secretary to Govt.
Dept. of Youth Empowerment & Sports
Please Come and take part in the State Level Youth Festival...
As is enshrined in our Constitution, "to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture" - is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country